

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00

MC-02 ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 CIEP-01 /073 W

----- 122918

R 011357Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 843

DOD WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCUSAFERAMSTEIN AB

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

ASD WPAFB OH/YP

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS DA

SUBJ: LEIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER: DANES STILL WAITING

REF: COPENHAGEN 1166

1) IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S (MAY 1)
BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, DEFMIN ORLA MOLLER REAFFIRMED THAT
NO FURTHER DANISH DECISION ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER
ISSUE WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER THE MAY 3 MEETING
BETWEEN DUTCH AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS. HE NOTED
THAT "THE OFFICIAL DEADLINE FOR PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL
IN THE FOUR COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM IS
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MAY 15 AND THERE WILL NOT BE A NEW OFFER IN THE ELEVENTH

HOUR. IT IS THE DANISH OPINION THAT IF THE FOUR COUNTRIES HOLD TOGETHER, THE AMERICAN PLANE WILL BE BOUGHT. EVEN IF ONE OF THE COUNTRIES BACK OUT, THERE WILL STILL BE THE MOST INTEREST IN THE AMERICAN AIRPLANE."

2) AT THE EMBASSY LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, GD AND P-W REPRESENTATIVES BRIEFED ABOUT 15 MEMBERS OF THE DANISH WORKING PRESS. RESULT WAS THAT SEEMED TO BE A SUCCESSFUL COUNTER TO FALSE ALLEGATIONS IN THE DANISH MEDIA BASED ON INFORMATION FROM PROPONENTS OF THE MIRAGE AND VIGGEN. THE ONLY STORY WHICH HAS SO FAR APPEARED AS A RESULT OF THE BRIEFING NOTED THAT, CONTRARY TO ALLEGATIONS, THE NOT-TO-EXCEED PRICE OF THE F-16 INCLUDES ALL EQUIPMENT AND PLANNED MODIFICATIONS.

3) COMMENT: OUR DANISH GOVERNMENT SOURCES CONTINUE TO BE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE FOUR CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES WILL FORMALLY COMMIT THEMSELVES TO BUY THE F-16 BEFORE MAY 15. THE SOURCES SAY THE DUTCH HAVE INFORMED THEM OF THE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE MADE BY THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT TO BUY THE F-16. IF THE BELGIANS AGREE TO GO ALONG, AND THIS IS SO REPORTED WHEN THE DUTCH VISIT HERE MAY 3-4, THE DANES CAN MAKE A CABINET RECOMMENDATION EARLY NEXT WEEK AND OBTAIN PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL A FEW DAYS LATER.
STHANKE

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